

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 2, 7, 8, 10 and 12, as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for connecting a graft conduit to the aorta in a patient's body, the method comprising:

forming an incision in the body of the patient to expose a femoral artery;
extending upwardly through the incision toward the aorta an elongated surgical instrument including a lumen therein between distal and proximal ends thereof;

performing an aortotomy at a site along the aorta through the lumen of the surgical instrument;

positioning one end of the graft conduit at the site through the lumen of the surgical instrument;

forming an anastomosis of the one end of the graft conduit with the aorta at the site of the aortotomy; and

attaching another end of the graft conduit to a blood vessel in the body of the patient.

2. (Currently amended) A method for connecting to the aorta in a patient's body a graft conduit including a body portion and an end portion, the method comprising:

forming an incision in the body of the patient to expose a femoral artery;
extending through the incision toward the aorta an elongated surgical
instrument including a lumen therein between distal and proximal ends thereof;
performing an aortotomy at a site along the aorta through the lumen of the
surgical instrument;

collapsing the graft conduit to dimension smaller than the cross-sectional
dimension of the lumen of the surgical instrument ~~aorta~~;

positioning one end of the graft conduit at the site through the lumen of the
surgical instrument;

expanding the end portion of the graft conduit into contact with the walls of
the aorta to secure the body portion of the graft conduit in position through the
aortotomy;

forming an anastomosis of the one end of the graft conduit with the aorta at
the site of the aortotomy with the end portion positioned along the aorta and with
the body portion protruding through the aortotomy;

attaching the end portion of the graft conduit to the aorta with the body
portion protruding outside the aorta; and

attaching another end of the graft conduit to a blood vessel in the body of the
patient.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 2 in which
positioning the end portion of the graft conduit also includes inserting the

collapsed graft conduit intralumenally within the aorta from a location downstream of the site.

4. (Previously Presented) A method for connecting a graft conduit to the aorta in a patient's body, the method comprising:

forming an incision in the body of the patient to expose a femoral artery;

extending through the incision toward the aorta an elongated surgical instrument including a lumen therein between distal and proximal ends thereof;

performing an aortotomy at a site along the aorta through the lumen of the surgical instrument;

positioning one end of the graft conduit at the site through the lumen of the surgical instrument;

expanding a balloon within the aorta to urge the one end of the graft conduit into contact with the walls of the aorta in response to fluid under pressure supplied to the balloon;

forming an anastomosis of the one end of the graft conduit with the aorta at the site of the aortotomy; and

attaching another end of the graft conduit to a blood vessel in the body of the patient.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4 further including installing a fluid conduit along a portion of the aorta downstream of the aortotomy for supplying fluid under pressure to inflate the balloon.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5 in which the fluid conduit is disposed intralumenally along the downstream portion of the aorta between the site and a location along a femoral artery.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for implanting a graft conduit in communication with ~~the~~ an aorta in the body of a patient, comprising:

forming an incision in the body of the patient for accessing the aorta;

inserting the graft conduit through said incision toward a site along the aorta;

installing within the aorta through an opening the graft conduit in collapsed configuration ~~in the region of the site within the aorta;~~

expanding the graft conduit to contact walls of the aorta in the region of the site;

anastomosing one end of the graft conduit to the aorta at the site; and

anastomosing another end of the graft conduit outside the aorta to a blood vessel in the body.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7 in which the graft conduit is introduced into the aorta at from a location below the site for transfer between the location and the site.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7 in which the graft conduit in collapsed configuration is expanded and urged into contact with the aorta walls in response to a balloon disposed to expand under fluid pressure supplied thereto.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 9 in which fluid under pressure is supplied to the balloon along a channel that extends intralumenally within ~~a vessel~~ the aorta between the balloon and a downstream location along ~~the a vessel~~ in fluid communication with the aorta.

11. (Previously Presented) A method for implanting a graft conduit in communication with the aorta in the body of a patient, comprising:

forming an incision in the body of the patient below the inguinal ligament to expose the region between the inguinal ligament and the femoral artery for access upwardly toward the aorta;

inserting the graft conduit through said incision upwardly toward a site along the aorta;

anastomosing one end of the graft conduit to the aorta at the site; and

anastomosing another end of the graft conduit to a blood vessel in the body.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11 in which the graft conduit is exposed within said region; and

said another end of the graft conduit is anastomosed to the femoral artery below the inguinal ligament.